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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/562,003	12/23/2005	Toshiharu Yokota	050786	1107

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EXAMINER

ZETTL, MARY E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/562,003	Applicant(s) YOKOTA, TOSHIHARU	
	Examiner Mary Zettl	Art Unit 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/23/2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, and 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) in view of Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934).

Regarding claim 1, Kokubu et al. teach a refrigerator provided with a chamber lamp socket attached to the inside of a chamber, and a chamber lamp attached to and supported by the chamber lamp socket. Kokubu et al. further teaches the collar portion (1) being formed of a flexible material (paragraph 10, Detailed Description). Kokubu et al. does not teach the collar portion having unevenness on an inner surface. Yamanaka teaches a cover equipped with an overclamping mechanism and having unevenness on an inner surface (Figure 2B, items 9-11). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the invention of Kokubu et al. such that unevenness was provided on an inner surface as taught by Yamanaka so as to prevent the components from coming loose due to vibrations.

Regarding claims 3, 9, 11, 14 Kokubu et al. further teach an intermediate portion of the collar portion being provided with an annular protruding portion (1e) which is closely attached to the outer periphery of the glass tube of the chamber lamp.

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Regarding claims 4, 15, 17, 19, Kokubu et al. further teach the use of a combustible refrigerant (Abstract).

Regarding claims 5, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, and 23, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have driven the chamber lamp with a commercial power supply voltage in order to avoid maintenance issues with other power supplies such as batteries.

Regarding claim 7, Kokubu et al. teach with a chamber lamp socket provided with a collar portion the collar portion (1) being formed of a flexible material (paragraph 10, Detailed Description) and which is brought into contact with the outer periphery of a glass tube of a chamber lamp (2). Kokubu et al. does not teach the collar portion having unevenness on an inner surface. Yamanaka teaches a cover equipped with an overclamping mechanism and having unevenness on an inner surface (Figure 2B, items 9-11). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the invention of Kokubu et al. such that unevenness was provided on an inner surface as taught by Yamanaka so as to prevent the components from coming loose due to vibrations.

Regarding claims 2 and 8, Yamanaka further teaches the unevenness having a sawtoothed shape constituted by alternately formed gentle slopes and steep slopes to set a resistance in detaching the chamber lamp to be larger than in attaching the chamber lamp. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the invention of Kokubu et al. such that such

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a sawtoothed shape was provided on an inner surface as taught by Yamanaka so as to prevent the components from coming loose due to vibrations.

2. Claims 6, 10, 12, 13, and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kokubu et al. (JP 2002-164138) and Yamanaka (JP 2000-240934) as applied to claims 3, 9, 11, 7, 1, 2, and 14 above, and further in view of Hawes et al. (US 3,915,328 A).

Regarding claims 6, 10, 12, 13, and 24-26, Kokubu et al. teach the collar being made of rubber or flexible plastics and being elastic. Kokubu et al. do not disclose expressly the flexible plastic being a polyvinyl chloride resin material. Hawes et al. teaches a frame means for connecting structural members in a refrigerator or freezer (Abstract) including a collar made of polyvinyl chloride (col. 5, line 27). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious for Kokubu et al. to have utilized polyvinyl chloride for the flexible plastic as it was well known that polyvinyl chloride is a material widely used because it is inexpensive and easy to assemble.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Doherty et al. (US 2003/0034322 A1) teach an applicator cap and a container having an applicator cap wherein a saw tooth arrangement is present around the cap (paragraphs 123 and 128).

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- b. Albeniz Garraza et al. (EP 0892 230 A1) teaches a chamber light socket in a refrigerator.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Zettl whose telephone number is (571) 272-6007. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee Luebke can be reached on (571) 272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MZ

MZ


RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER